explore CUR
2022 Year in Review
CUR Community,

What a gift to be sitting and writing to you again after a year that just seemed to blow by, and yet, to continue to be filled with the feeling of gratitude. This community continues to be dedicated to the success of CUR’s mission, the life changing work you all are doing with students and supporting each other. The CUR National Office staff took on new challenges and responsibilities with grace and enthusiasm this year. And, as I did my annual exercise of revisiting the prior year’s review, I was reminded that together, we were successful in holding to my pledge to “try new things, reevaluate how and why we do things, and be sure what we do aligns with the needs of the community... [and] make our programs flexible and multi modal.” The following pages will provide a glimpse into the engagement of this CUR community in 2022 and our efforts towards the Strategic Plan goals. We are forever grateful for all that our members and community do for undergraduate research, and wouldn’t be able to achieve our organization’s goals without you.

Yours in service,

Lindsay Currie, CAE

2022 initiatives

- Transforming into an annual conference called ConnectUR
- Reimagining advocacy into a 6-month event, STR: Students Transforming Through Research
- Launching Virtual Intensive Workshops
- Celebrating + Awarding the Silvia Ronco Award
- Collaboration on new programs and offerings from Divisions
- Achieving record high number of volunteers raising their hands to run for Councilor

“Try new things, reevaluate how and why we do things, and be sure what we do aligns with the needs of the community...”

CUR.ORG | COMMUNITY 3

President
Ruth J. Palmer
The College of New Jersey, emeritus

President-Elect
Barbara Usher
George Mason University

Past President
Karen Hershman
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Immediate Past President
Joanne Meinhold
Radford University

THE COMMUNITY

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Executive BOARD MEMBERS

John Barthell
University of Central Oklahoma General Rep

Linda Blochus
University of Missouri - Columbia Council Rep

Denise Charbonneau
UNA/CdO General Rep

Beth Cunningham
American Association of Physics Teachers Council Rep

Maria Iacullo-Bird
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American Association of Universities General Rep

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Westminster College Council Rep

Charlotte Simmons
University of Central Oklahoma General Rep

Nicole Snyder
Purdue University Council Rep

Blond Tawari
California State University Fullerton Council Rep

National OFFICE STAFF

“While out collaborating with colleagues, once they have realized I am a part of CUR, the conversations are so much more straightforward. The opportunities to discuss our work and have meaningful conversations with others is overwhelming. CUR has become a model for many small associations and our small, tight-knit community just gives us more energy to keep pushing our creativity and knowledge.”

Elizabeth Moris
Director, Brand Engagement

Natalie Jones
Manager, Customer + Volunteer Experience

Todd Waggoner
Manager, Communication + Content

Heather Wakefield
Sr. Director, Program Strategy, Development + Design

Lindsay Currie
Executive Officer

Pam Dodge
Sr. Manager, Finance + operations

Austen Gage
Sr. Manager, Member + Community Experience

Dara James
Marketing Consultant + Business Experience

Jessica Hures
Director, Brand Engagement
**Executive Committee Question Corner**

**How Has CUR + The Community Impacted You?**

"Our CUR colleagues have been vital to my professional success. CUR helped shape a wide and inclusive vision of undergraduate research that informed me and my teams as we established our undergraduate research program. CUR also has given me some of my best friends and supporters across the world in higher education."

Bethanie Ulmer, PhD
George Mason University | President-Elect

"CUR has been a constant throughout my time working in higher education, providing different kinds of important support at different career stages. From my first early-career "how to mentor" workshop to my current position as Treasurer, CUR has provided the right array of opportunities for my continuing professional development."

Karen Havholm
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire | Treasurer
“It has created opportunities for innovation and creativity in helping us advance the process of conducting undergraduate research across mediums and supporting a broader array of student populations.”

Jeanne Mekolichick
Radford University | Immediate Past-President

How has the impact of COVID’s aftermath (and the continued rebuilding phases) affected undergraduate research?

“It has radically impacted every aspect of our lives, locally, nationally, and internationally. Higher education and undergraduate research have felt the range of its impact which are dismal, devastating in parts, and with some irreparable effects. However, within these periods of volatility and darkness, have come the capacities to recognize knowledge opportunity gaps, and opportunities to generate novel methodological approaches to address the complexities of the problems, issues, and challenges that raise new questions and require complex responses. It is important that we choose not to just return to business as usual but to develop those skills that will help us navigate the complexities for which research is the response.”

Ruth J. Palmer
The College of New Jersey, Emeritus | President

Executive Committee

Question Corner

Presidents Quarterly Highlights

- Received PPP Loans + Forgiven in 2022
- Board approved a new investment policy statement with a focus on socially responsible investing
- Created taskforce to work on two-year project updating COEUR guidelines

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Social Media Stats

646 New Followers

9417 Video Views

830 Overall Posts

18.9K Impressions

Community Forum Stats

142 First Time Posters

896 First Time Logins

Protocols for UR Mentoring

Most Engaged Content

Newsletter Stats

42 This Week in Washington issues

763 Confronting Failure Downloads

2 Hosted Office Hours with Editor in Chief

203 Publications Purchased

473 Publications + SPUR

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Launched New @CURPresident Twitter Handle

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New to the organizational awards in 2022, CUR and Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) announced an initiative to support research within the Chemical Sciences in honor of CUR’s past president and current RCSA Senior Program Director, Silvia Ronco. The Silvia Ronco Innovative Mentor Award, established by a gift from RCSA, will recognize tenure-track faculty members within ten years of their first faculty appointment who demonstrate success in the Chemical Sciences and whose mentoring practices have supported undergraduate research.
Over the past years, Undergraduate research has taken root in the culture of undergraduate education, but its continued growth and success must rely on the work of CUR’s leaders in partnership with other organizations who advocate for common sustainable approaches and practices in the field.

- Build and nurture a dedicated cadre of faculty mentors who would assume intellectual leadership for the field of URSCA
- Build models of collaboration, cohesion, and community and impact that reach across CUR
- Support SPUR as the premiere journal for publishing scholarship on URSCA
- Empower and support divisions as the leading voice of UR scholarship and creative inquiry in their discipline

Note that these are the success statements and strategies of the CUR 2020-25 Strategic Plan. In the 5, 10, 15 years and forward, CUR will advance and change as it invests in the futures thinking that can help its members to capitalize on the opportunities that emerge over time.

"...it’s continued growth and success must rely on the work of CUR’s leaders in partnership with other organizations...

Undergraduate research is a model high-impact practice, and it has become an expectation of the undergraduate experience in most institutions. Most faculty will have participated in undergraduate research themselves, and will get professional development around mentorship and incorporating authentic inquiry projects into their courses. I foresee a wider understanding of what “undergraduate scholarship” is across all disciplines and in all of higher education. I also expect that the lines of undergraduate research will become blurrier – as we bring the fundamentals of inquiry into community engagement, internships, capstones, first-year seminars, entrepreneurship, and other aspects of the student experience. Undergraduate research will be thriving in five years.

Undergraduate research experiences offers students an array of highly desirable and transferable skills to a variety of work settings. Helping students, mentors, administrators, the public and new talent acquisition professionals understand and value of these experiences for students’ next steps will be a critical step in advancing undergraduate research in the future. Allied, leaning into equitable, flexible, innovative, and digitally-mediated UREs that serve a broader array of student populations will also be critical for UR to continue..."

CUR, as an organization, continues to evolve to meet the needs of the UR community. Currently, significant changes are bringing CUR in line with legal frameworks and best practices of nonprofit management and operation. This will reduce risk and make the organization stronger into the future.

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